Pictorial warning on tobacco products

2699. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory in European countries to print pictorial warning of skull and cross bones on the boxes of cigars which are full of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether such mandatory warning had been printed;

(c) the number of deaths due to lung cancer or lung diseases recorded in various Government and private hospitals in the country due to beedi smoking during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise; and

(d) the number of deaths due to lung cancer or lung diseases of non-beedi smokers, having been recorded in various Government and private hospitals in the country during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, it is not mandatory in European countries to print pictorial warning of skull and cross bones on the boxes of cigars, which are full of tobacco.

(c) and (d) There are studies to indicate that tobacco smoking in any form increases the incidence of respiratory diseases including Cancer.

The data regarding number of death due to beedi smoking is however not being maintained.

De-recognition of medical course

†2700. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the super specialization course of M.Ch. in neuro-surgery is being discontinued now from here Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College situated in Cuttack in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether his Ministry has received any letter requesting to continue that course in the said college; and,

(d) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) MCI conducted the inspection of Shree Ram Chandra Bhanj Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa in October, 2006 and did not recommend for recognition of M.Ch. (Neuro-surgery) qualification in view of certain deficiencies in terms of teaching faculty, OPD attendance and clinical material etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.